

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 72-95 are canceled. Claims 96-120 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-95 (Canceled).

Claim 96 (New). An animal feed composition, comprising

(a) a xylanase of Family 11 glycosyl hydrolase having a pH-optimum in the range of 4.5-7.5 and a residual xylanase activity after incubation for 60 minutes at pH 6.0 of one or more of: more than 96% residual activity when measured at 60°C; more than 83% residual activity when measured at 65°C; more than 20% residual activity when measured at 70°C; and more than 10% residual activity when measured at 75°C, wherein the xylanase comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and

(b) a cereal which comprises wheat and/or rye in an amount between 50 and 73.10 weight % of the feed composition; wherein the animal feed composition is for feeding a chick or poultry and the xylanase improves the growth rate and/or feed conversion ratio of the chick or poultry.

Claim 97 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising arabinoxylans and glucuronoxylans

Claim 98 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising one or more enzymes selected from the group consisting of arabinanases, endoglucanases, galactanases, alpha-galactosidases, beta-galactosidases, alpha-galacturonidases, beta-glucanases, lipolytic enzymes, mannan acetyl esterases, mannanases, beta-mannosidases, pectate lyases, pectin degrading enzymes, pectinesterases, pectin lyases, phytases, polygalacturonases, proteases, rhamnogalacturonases, rhamnogalacturonan acetyl esterases, rhamnogalacturonan-alpha-rhamnosidase, xylan acetyl esterases, and xylosidases.

Claim 99 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the xylanase is derived from a thermophilic fungus.

Claim 100 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 99, wherein the thermophilic fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Byssochlamus*, *Chaetomium*, *Humicola*, *Malbranchea*, *Mucor*, *Myceliothermophthora*, *Paecilomyces*, *Talaromyces*, *Thermoascus*, *Thermomyces* and *Thielavia*.

Claim 101 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 99, wherein the thermophilic fungus is a *Pyrenomycetes*.

Claim 102 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 99, wherein the thermophilic fungus is a *Plectomycetes*.

Claim 103 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 99, wherein the thermophilic fungus is an *Eerotiales*.

Claim 104 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the xylanase is encoded by a DNA sequence that hybridizes with nucleotides 31-705 of SEQ ID NO: 1 under hybridization conditions comprising hybridization in 5XSSC at 45°C and washing in 2XSSC, 0.2% SDS at 70°C.

Claim 105 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 104, wherein the xylanase is encoded by a DNA sequence that hybridizes with nucleotides 31-705 of SEQ ID NO: 1 under hybridization conditions comprising hybridization in 5XSSC at 45°C and washing in 2XSSC, 0.2% SDS at 75°C.

Claim 106 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 105, wherein the xylanase is encoded by a DNA sequence that hybridizes with nucleotides 31-705 of SEQ ID NO: 1 under hybridization conditions comprising hybridization in 5XSSC at 45°C and washing in 2XSSC, 0.2% SDS at 80°C.

Claim 107 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the xylanase comprises amino acids 32-225 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 108 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 107, wherein the xylanase consists of amino acids 32-225 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 109 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the xylanase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 110 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 109, wherein the xylanase consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 111 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the xylanase is a monocomponent xylanase.

Claim 112 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the cereal comprises wheat.

Claim 113 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, wherein the cereal comprises rye.

Claim 114 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising one or more of vitamins, fish meal, meat and bone meal, animal fat, methionine, protein, animal fat, limestone, dicalciumphosphate, choline chloride, cysteine, arginine, calcium, phosphorus, and sodium.

Claim 115 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising fish meal.

Claim 116 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising meat and bone meal.

Claim 117 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising methionine.

Claim 118 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising limestone.

Claim 119 (New). The animal feed composition of claim 96, further comprising dicalcium phosphate.

Claim 120 (New). A method of improving the growth of a chick or poultry, comprising feeding the chick or poultry with an animal feed composition of claim 96.